GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:404
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
GIVING A BOOST TO LANDLINE TELEPHONE.
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country both fixed and mobile, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of mobile phone subscribers has increased over the year;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to further reduce the rental as well as call charges on landline phone to attract more subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 404 FOR 24TH AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING GIVING A BOOST TO LANDLINE TELEPHONE.

(a) The number of telephone subscribers, both fixed and mobile, state-wise, as on 30.6.2005 are given in the Annexure.

(b) Yes, Sir. The number of mobile subscribers has increased over the years as shown below:

(No. in millions)

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005 (As on 30th June 2005)
Mobile	6.43	13.00	33.70	56.73

(c) The rental and call charges for landline phones are not fixed by the Government. However, TRAI has fixed a standard tariff package for rural areas, which includes rental and call charges for landline phones.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is the authority to regulate the tariff rates. However, service providers have been given the freedom to fix their own tariff rates for the landline phones according to the market forces of demand and supply, their business plans, etc. For the rural landlines, a standard package was notified by TRAI on 5th November 2003. It is mandatory for the service providers to offer this package along with any other package that they may choose to offer. There is no proposal with TRAI to revise the rental and call charges for landline phones.

ANNEXURE

NUMBER OF FIXED AND MOBILE PHONES AS ON 30.6.2005

Sl No	Name Circle/State	No. of Fixed Phones (Landline +WLL Fixed)	Mobile Telephones (WLL Mobile + Cellular)	Total Number of Telephones

1	Andman & Nicobar	39812	14095	53907
2	Andhra Pradesh	3725004	4191757	7916761
3	Assam	541356	330926	872282
4	Bihar	1099554	1218635	2318189
5	Chhattisgarh	352910	75245	428155
6	Gujarat	3160565	4079449	7240014
7	Haryana	1223206	1298129	2521335
8	Himachal Pradesh	498753	405230	903983
9	Jammu & Kashmir	319317	329837	649154
10	Jharkhand	500179	174795	674974
11	Karnataka	3139550	3913680	7053230
12	Kerala	3809926	2704065	6513991
13	Madhya Pradesh	1515005	1889819	3404824
14	Maharashtra(-) Mumbai	4567215	4679601	9246816
15	North East	384272	162557	546829
16	Orissa	864060	778478	1642538
17	Punjab	2384279	3741209	6125488
18	Rajasthan	2147065	1875123	4022188
19	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	3184301	3584073	6768374
20	Uttaranchal	393432	134070	527502
21	Uttar Pradesh	3217305	4815805	8033110
22	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	1324967	1003134	2328101
23	Kolkata	1542227	2042810	3585037
24	Chennai	1163883	2155508	3319391
25	Delhi	2399584	5802697	8202281
26	Mumbai	3061885	5325878	8387763
	Total	46559612	56726605	103286217

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